

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 SCCT-01 SY-04 IGA-01 IO-03

H-01 INR-05 L-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 CIAE-00 /051 W

----- 072869

R 040740Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 665

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 829

LIMDIS

KUWAIT PASS DOHA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MU

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL FOR URBAN TERRORISM IN OMAN

1. DURING COURSE OF DEC. 1 BRIEFING FOR VISITING AMB HELMS AND PARTY, COMMANDER OF SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES (CSAF) GENERAL CREASEY ADDRESSED QUESTION OF WHAT PFLO TACTICS MIGHT BE NOW THAT MILITARY EFFORT SERIOUSLY ERODING GUERILLA CAPABILITY TO OPERATE IN DHOFAR. CREASEY SAID THAT HE HAD THOUGHT THAT "OPERATION JASON" WRAPUP AT END OF 1972 WOULD SET BACK PFLOAG PLANNING BY SIX MONTHS. ACTUALLY, IT HAD SLOWED THEM DOWN MUCH LONGER. HAZM INCIDENT (MUSCAT 702)-- WHICH CREASEY WAS FRANK TO ATTRIBUTE TO LUCK AS MUCH AS TO CAREFUL INTELLIGENCE WORK-- WAS A FURTHER BLOW TO PFLO. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO THINK THAT OMAN GOVT SUCCESS IN THIS CASE SERIOUSLY WILL DETER ORGIANIZATION FROM SHIFTING TO CAMPAIGN OF URBAN TERRORISM PRIMARILY FOCUSED IN NORTHERN PART OF COUNTRY. CREASEY AND HIS G-2 ESTIMATE THAT SUCH

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PERNICIOUS ACTIVITY LIKELY TO SURFACE IN 4-6 MONTHS' TIME.

2. COMMENT. DESPITE HIS ANALYSIS OF PFLO INTENTIONS, CREASEY DID NOT INDICATE THAT SAF IS TAKING ANY SPECIFIC MEASURES TO COUNTER POTENTIAL THREAT. GIVEN INTENTION TO PRESS CAMPAIGN IN SOUTH AS WELL AS MAINTAIN CERTAIN STATIC DEFENSES, SAF MIGHT NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT RESOURCES VIGOROUSLY TO MOVE AGAINST URBAN GUERILLA GROUP OF EVEN MODERATE STRENGTH. CONCLUSION IS THAT MUCH OF LATTER EFFORT PROBABLY WOULD HAVE TO BE ASSUMED BY POLICE FORCES. WE ARE NOT SURE HOW WIDELY CREASEY'S EVALUATION IS SHARED, BUT THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE RELAXATION IN PRE-NATIONAL DAY LEVEL OF INTERNAL SECURITY ALERT SUCH AS FREQUENT ROAD CHECKS.

WOLLE

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